A TRADITION OF SERVICE

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
INCIDENT REPORT

DATE 06-12-20 PAGE 1 OF 4

ACTION: ☒ ACTIVE ☐ INACTIVE ☐ PENDING | NON-CRIMINAL ☐ | # OF ADULT ARRESTS 3 | # OF SUBJECT DETENTIONS 0 | URN# 0 RETENTION 20 YEAR 07976 SEQUENTIAL 2608 REPORTING DISTRICT 055 STAT CODE | TAG# 223

CLASSIFICATION 1 / LEVEL / STAT CODE
ATTEMPT MURDER ON PEACE OFFICER 664.187(a)PC / F / 055

CLASSIFICATION 2 / LEVEL / STAT CODE
CARJACKING 215(a)PC / F / 038

CLASSIFICATION 3 / LEVEL / STAT CODE
FELON IN POSSESSION OF FIREARM 29800(a)(1) PC / F / 161

CLASSIFICATION 4 / LEVEL / STAT CODE
EVADING 2800.2(a) CVC / F / 252

ADDITIONAL STAT CODES ☐ ASAP / 63 ☐ FIREARM RELATED / 630 ☐ GANG RELATED / 860 ☐ CYBER CRIME / 851 ☐ CYBER - RELATED CRIME / 552 ☐ CYBER - RELATED INCIDENT (NON - CRIMINAL) / 559 ☐ OTHER

DATE / TIME / DAY OF OCCURRENCE
06-12-20 / 2118 / FRIDAY

☐ PRINTS REQUESTED REQUESTED BY TIME
☐ PRINTS COMPLETED

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE
10TH ST EAST / PALMDALE BLVD, PALMDALE CA 93550

BUSINESS NAME
PARKING LOT

CODE: V - VICTIM • W - WITNESS • I - INFORMANT • R - REPORTING PARTY • P - PARTY

CODE V # 1 of 2 LAST NAME MEJIA FIRST NAME JOSHUA MIDDLE NAME # [redacted] RACE DOB McPINEDO [redacted] STATE ID
RESIDENCE ADDRESS LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY STATE ZIP LOG 6/13/20 RESIDENCE PHONE (Area Code)
BUSINESS / SCHOOL (GRADE) ADDRESS CITY STATE FAX/MAIL BUSINESS PHONE (Area Code)
ETHNIC ORIGIN EMAIL ADDRESS SOCIAL NETWORKING ACCOUNT LARCIS E. BANDA [redacted]
VICTIM OF OFFENSE(S) (CLASSIFICATION) #: # 1 # # # # VICTIM DESIROUS OF PROSECUTION? ☐ YES ☐ NO VICTIM OF SEX CRIME DESIROUS OF CONFIDENTIALITY? ☐ YES ☐ NO SCAN 06/13/2020 ENGLISH SPEAKING? [redacted] ☐ NO LANGUAGE

CODE V # 2 of 2 LAST NAME MCDONALD FIRST NAME CHRISTOPHER MIDDLE NAME # [redacted] DOB AGE DRIVER'S LICENSE / STATE ID
RESIDENCE ADDRESS LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPUTY CITY STATE ZIP RESIDENCE PHONE (Area Code)
BUSINESS / SCHOOL (GRADE) ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP BUSINESS PHONE (Area Code)
ETHNIC ORIGIN EMAIL ADDRESS SOCIAL NETWORKING ACCOUNT CELL PHONE (Area Code)
VICTIM OF OFFENSE(S) (CLASSIFICATION) #: # 1 # # # # VICTIM DESIROUS OF PROSECUTION? ☐ YES ☐ NO VICTIM OF SEX CRIME DESIROUS OF CONFIDENTIALITY? ☐ YES ☐ NO ENGLISH SPEAKING? ☐ YES ☐ NO LANGUAGE

CODE: S - SUSPECT • SJ - SUBJECT • M - PATIENT • S/V - SUSPECT / VICTIM • SJ / V - SUBJECT / VICTIM

CODE S # 1 of 3 LAST NAME DOE FIRST NAME JOHN MIDDLE NAME DOB AGE UNKNOWN DRIVER'S LICENSE / STATE ID
SEX M RACE H ETHNIC ORIGIN HAIR EYES UNKNOWN HEIGHT WEIGHT CELL PHONE (Area Code) —
RESIDENCE ADDRESS UNKNOWN CITY STATE ZIP RESIDENCE PHONE (Area Code) —
BUSINESS / SCHOOL (GRADE) ADDRESS UNKNOWN CITY STATE ZIP BUSINESS PHONE (Area Code)
AKA — EMAIL ADDRESS — SOCIAL NETWORKING ACCOUNT — ENGLISH SPEAKING? ☐ YES ☐ NO
MONIKER — CHARGE 664:187 PC, 215 PC, 2800.2(a) CVC, 29800(a)(1) PC BOOKING NUMBER N/C LANGUAGE UNK WHERE DETAINED OR CITE NUMBER AVH

CODE S # 2 of 3 LAST NAME CARDOZO FIRST NAME ANTHONY MIDDLE NAME DOB 11-08-00 AGE 19 [redacted]
SEX M RACE H ETHNIC ORIGIN HAIR BRO EYES BRO HEIGHT 5'11 WEIGHT 180 CELL PHONE (Area Code) [redacted]
RESIDENCE ADDRESS [redacted] CITY STATE ZIP RESIDENCE PHONE (Area Code) [redacted]
BUSINESS / SCHOOL (GRADE) [redacted] CITY STATE ZIP BUSINESS PHONE (Area Code) [redacted]
AKA — EMAIL ADDRESS [redacted] SOCIAL NETWORKING ACCOUNT — ENGLISH SPEAKING? ☒ YES ☐ NO
MONIKER — CHARGE 215 PC 29800(a)(1) PC, 2800.2(a) CVC BOOKING NUMBER 5953635 LANGUAGE WHERE DETAINED OR CITE NUMBER PDY

BY DEPUTY CARCIOPPOLO JENNA [redacted] SWORN EXP IN YRS 2 | DEPUTY GIORRINDO JOSEPH EMP [redacted] SWORN EXP IN YRS 7 VACATION DATES 0
STATION PLM UNIT / CAR # 263F SHIFT PM | APPROVED SGT. D GORE [redacted] DATE / TIME 06-13-20 / 0805
PCD SUBMITTED? ☒ YES ☐ NO VACATION DATES 0 | ASSIGNMENT HOMICIDE
HQ NOTIFICATION REQUESTED? ☐ YES ☒ NO DEPUTY DATE / TIME SPECIAL REQUEST DISTRIBUTION
SUSPECT / SUBJECT FIELD RELEASE APPROVED BY DATE / TIME (1) CRIME BROADCAST BY DATE / TIME SECRETARY

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

INCIDENT REPORT CONTINUATION

URN# 020-07976-2608-055 TAG# 223

CLASSIFICATION # / LEVEL / STAT CODE

CLASSIFICATION # / LEVEL / STAT CODE

CLASSIFICATION # / LEVEL / STAT CODE

VEHICLE

VEHICLE FOR VICTIM # | LICENSE (STATE & NUMBER) | YEAR | MAKE | MODEL | BODY TYPE | COLOR

VEHICLE FOR SUSPECT # | REGISTERED OWNER | IDENTIFYING FEATURES

STATUS ☐ STOLEN ☐ STORED ☐ DAMAGED ☐ IMPOUNDED ☐ EMBEZZLED ☐ OUTSTANDING | CHP 180 SUBMITTED? ☐ YES ☐ NO | GARAGE NAME & PHONE

DESCRIPTION OF DAMAGE

CODE: V - VICTIM • W - WITNESS • I - INFORMANT • R - REPORTING PARTY • P - PARTY

CODE W # 1 [redacted] SEX M RACE H [redacted] AGE 21 [redacted]

RESIDENCE PHONE (Area Code) –

ETHNIC ORIGIN – [redacted]

SOCIAL NETWORKING ACCOUNT –

VICTIM OF OFFENSE(S) (CLASSIFI[redacted] NA

VICTIM DESIROUS OF PROSECUTION? ☐ YES ☐ NO NA

VICTIM OF SEX CRIME DESIROUS OF CONFIDENTIALITY? ☐ YES ☐ NO NA

ENGLISH SPEAKING? ☒ YES ☐ NO

LANGUAGE

CODE W # 2 [redacted] SEX M RACE B [redacted] AGE 25 [redacted]

RESIDENCE PHONE (Area Code) –

[redacted] –

SOCIAL NETWORKING ACCOUNT –

VICTIM OF OFFENSE(S) (CLASSIFICAT[redacted] NA

VICTIM DESIROUS OF PROSECUTION? ☐ YES ☐ NO NA

VICTIM OF SEX CRIME DESIROUS OF CONFIDENTIALITY? ☐ YES ☐ NO NA

ENGLISH SPEAKING? ☒ YES ☐ NO

LANGUAGE

CODE | # of | LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | MIDDLE NAME | SEX | RACE | DOB | AGE | DRIVER'S LICENSE / STATE ID

RESIDENCE ADDRESS | CITY | STATE | ZIP | RESIDENCE PHONE (Area Code)

BUSINESS / SCHOOL (GRADE) ADDRESS | CITY | STATE | ZIP | BUSINESS PHONE (Area Code)

ETHNIC ORIGIN | EMAIL ADDRESS | SOCIAL NETWORKING ACCOUNT | CELL PHONE (Area Code)

VICTIM OF OFFENSE(S) (CLASSIFICATION) # # # # # | VICTIM DESIROUS OF PROSECUTION? ☐ YES ☐ NO | VICTIM OF SEX CRIME DESIROUS OF CONFIDENTIALITY? ☐ YES ☐ NO | ENGLISH SPEAKING? ☐ YES ☐ NO

LANGUAGE

CODE: S - SUSPECT • SJ - SUBJECT • M - PATIENT • S/V - SUSPECT / VICTIM • SJ / V - SUBJECT / VICTIM

CODE S # 3 3 LAST NAME PINA FIRST NAME RANFERI MIDDLE NAME DOB 08-09-81 AGE 38 [redacted]

SEX M RACE H ETHNIC ORIGIN – HAIR BLK EYES BRO HEIGHT 506 WEIGHT 156 [redacted]

[redacted] CITY [redacted] STATE [redacted] ZIP [redacted]

RESIDENCE PHONE (Area Code) –

AKA – | BUSINESS PHONE (Area Code) –

EMAIL AD[redacted] | SOCIAL NETWORKING ACCOUNT –

MONIKER – | ENGLISH SPEAKING? ☒ YES ☐ NO

CHARGE 664/187 PC, 215 PC, 2800.2(a) CVC, 29800(a)(1) PC | BOOKING NUMBER 5953604 | LANGUAGE – | WHERE DETAINED OR CITE NUMBER PLM

CODE | # of | LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | MIDDLE NAME | DOB | AGE | DRIVER'S LICENSE / STATE ID

SEX | RACE | ETHNIC ORIGIN | HAIR | EYES | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | CELL PHONE (Area Code)

RESIDENCE ADDRESS | CITY | STATE | ZIP | RESIDENCE PHONE (Area Code)

BUSINESS / SCHOOL (GRADE) ADDRESS | CITY | STATE | ZIP | BUSINESS PHONE (Area Code)

AKA | EMAIL ADDRESS | SOCIAL NETWORKING ACCOUNT | ENGLISH SPEAKING? ☐ YES ☐ NO

MONIKER | CHARGE | BOOKING NUMBER | LANGUAGE | WHERE DETAINED OR CITE NUMBER

76C300F - SH-R-49A (Rev. 4/2014)

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

INCIDENT REPORT

A TRADITION OF SERVICE

URN# 020-07976-2608-055
TAG # 223
DATE 06-12-20 PAGE 3 OF 4

VEHICLE
VEHICLE FOR VICTIM #
VEHICLE FOR SUSPECT # 1
LICENSE (STATE & NUMBER) CA/ [redacted]
REGISTERED OWNER
YEAR 19 MAKE DODGE MODEL CHARGER BODY TYPE 4D COLOR GY
IDENTIFYING FEATURES
STATUS: STOLEN / STORED / DAMAGED / ✓ IMPOUNDED / EMBEZZLED / OUTSTANDING
CHP 180 SUBMITTED? ✓ YES / NO
GARAGE NAME & PHONE: SIERRA TOW 661-948-4571
DESCRIPTION OF DAMAGE: FRONT DRIVER'S BUMPER SCRATCHES DRIVER'S SIDE

VEHICLE
VEHICLE FOR VICTIM #
VEHICLE FOR SUSPECT #
LICENSE (STATE & NUMBER)
REGISTERED OWNER
YEAR MAKE MODEL BODY TYPE COLOR
IDENTIFYING FEATURES
STATUS: STOLEN / STORED / DAMAGED / IMPOUNDED / EMBEZZLED / OUTSTANDING
CHP 180 SUBMITTED? YES / NO
GARAGE NAME & PHONE
DESCRIPTION OF DAMAGE

SCREENING FACTORS

✓ 1. SUSPECT IN CUSTODY
✓ 2. SUSPECT NAMED / KNOWN
✓ 3. UNIQUE SUSPECT IDENTIFIERS
4. VEHICLE IN CUSTODY
5. UNIQUE VEHICLE IDENTIFIERS
6. WRITER/REVIEWER DISCRETION

PROPERTY CODE:

S – STOLEN • R – RECOVERED • L – LOST • F – FOUND • E – EMBEZZLED • D – DAMAGED • K – SAFEKEEPING
(Use all applicable Codes; for example, if property is both Stolen and Recovered, Code is S/R)

RELEASED TO

CODE	ITEM #	QUAN.	DESCRIPTION (Include kind of article, trade name, identifying numbers, physical description, material, color, condition, age and present market value)	SERIAL #	VALUE
S/R	1	1	GRAY DODGE CHARGER [redacted] TRAFFIC COLLISION DAMAGE DRIVERS SIDE OF VEHICLE	[redacted]	$30,000

76C300F - SH-R-49 (Rev 4/2014)

I responded to 20th St East and Palmdale Blvd, Palmdale regarding a pursuit of a carjacking vehicle which resulted in a deputy involved shooting at its terminus. Upon my arrival, I obtained the following information as the handling Deputy on the above incident:

At approximately 2104 hours Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Air Ship 29 Deputies Steve Miller [redacted] and Pilot Michael Machuca [redacted] (Air 29) notified Palmdale Sheriff's station a suspect vehicle (CA/[redacted] from a carjacking reported out of South Gate Police Department (case#20-04902) was traveling north bound on the 14 Freeway through the unincorporated Los Angeles County area of Acton. The suspects were reported to be armed with a long gun and a pistol which were used in the commission of the carjacking. Air Ship 29 notified Palmdale Station that a California Highway Patrol Motor Unit (unknown officer) was alone and in surveillance mode behind the vehicle and requested Palmdale Sheriff's Deputies to respond.

At 2109 hours Air 29 advised CHP units were in pursuit of the suspect vehicle traveling northbound on the 14 freeway near the Pearblossom Highway exit, Palmdale.

At 2111 hours Air 29 advised via Sheriff's Radio of Deputy and California Highway Patrol personnel were in pursuit of the above vehicle.. Air Ship 29 advised the suspect vehicle exited the 14 freeway traveling east on Palmdale Blvd and the pursuit concluded at the intersection of 20th Street East and Palmdale Blvd as a result of a traffic collision with an unsuspecting civilian. The suspect vehicle collided with W/[redacted] white Nissan sedan (CA/[redacted] Three suspects exited the vehicle and ran southeast into the shopping center located on the southeast corner of Palmdale Blvd.

At 2118 hours, Air Ship 29 advised via Sheriffs Radio a deputy involved shooting had occurred.

Officer [redacted] attempted to detain S/Cardozo on the west side of the shopping center. While attempting to detain an officer involved shooting occurred.

S/Doe was transported to Antelope Valley Hospital for medical treatment (see supplement report).

S/Cardozo and S/Pina were transported and booked at Palmdale Station Jail (see supplemental report).

W/[redacted] was transported to Palmdale Sheriff's Station (see supplemental report).

W/[redacted] was transported to Palmdale Sheriff's Station (see supplemental report).

Deputy Brenda Alcantara [redacted] canvassed the surrounding area for security camera footage (see supplemental report)

The suspect vehicle was impounded for evidence (22655.5 CVC) see CHP-180 under the above file number.

For further information on the traffic collision report see CHP report.

For further on South Gate Police Department's report of the carjacking see case #20-04902.

For further information on the above file number see Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau's supplemental report.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

DATE: June 15, 2020

FILE NO.: 020-07976-2608-013

C: ATTEMPT MURDER OF A PEACE OFFICER, 664/187(A) P.C.; UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF FIREARM BY A FELON, 29800(A)(1) PC; EVADING A PEACE OFFICER, 2800.1VC; DEPUTY INVOLVED SHOOTING (SUSPECT DECEASED)

ACTION: ACTIVE INVESTIGATION/ CHANGE STAT CODE/ WITNESS INTERVIEWS/ SEARCH WARRANTS SERVED

CORONER'S CASE#: 2020-05233

V1: MEJIA, JOSHUA, MH/ADULT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPUTY SHERIFF [redacted]

V2: MCDONALD CHRISTOPHER, MW/ADULT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPUTY SHERIFF [redacted]

V3: [redacted] MW/ADULT
CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER
[redacted]

D: JUNE 12, 2020, FRIDAY,
2118 HOURS

L: 38360 20th STREET EAST,
PALMDALE, CA 93550

S1: LUGO, TONY ROCHA, M/H
DOB: 04-19-94, CII [redacted] (DECEASED)

S2: CARDOZO, ANTHONY, M/H
DOB: 11-08-00, BOOKING #5953635

S3: PINA, RANFERE, M/H
DOB: 08-09-81, BOOKING #5953604

....

EVIDENCE HELD:

EV ITEM #73 Firearm, Smith & Wesson, M&P, 9mm, serial [redacted] with attached "Surefire" light. Magazine containing 16 live 9mm rounds (FC 9mm Luger, head stamps) and one live 9mm live round (FC 9mm Luger,

head stamp). Recovered from Deputy Christopher McDonald.

EV ITEM #LR1 DNA buccal swab from Suspect Anthony Cardoza

EV ITEM #LR2 DNA buccal swab from Suspect Ranfere Pina

RESPONSE:

On June 12, 2020, at approximately 2334 hours, Detectives Lukehart and Recchia responded to a Command Post at 38360 20th Street East, Palmdale, to handle an investigation regarding the attempted murder of Peace Officers and a Deputy and Officer involved shooting.

Detectives were briefed by the handling unit, Deputies Gorrindo #[redacted] and Carciopollo #[redacted] who were assigned to Palmdale Station unit 263F/PM shift.

Detectives were briefed that Deputies were advised, via Sheriff's Radio, that a reported armed carjacking vehicle was being pursued on the 14 Freeway by California Highway Patrol units. The California Highway Patrol requested assistance from Los Angeles Sheriff's Department units. The vehicle description was provided as a 2019 Dodge Charger, blue in color, with a California license place[redacted] The South Gate Police report of the carjacking, under file #200492 will be made a permanent part of this case file.

The Los Angeles Sheriff's units became engaged in the pursuit, in order to assist the California Highway Patrol Officers. The pursuit proceeded on the 14 Freeway and several side streets. The vehicle pursuit continued back onto the northbound 14 Freeway and subsequently exited onto eastbound Palmdale Boulevard.

> **Detectives Note:**
> Detectives were briefed on the route of the pursuit by California Highway Patrol Sergeant[redacted]#[redacted] California Highway Patrol reports, which document the pursuit and subsequent traffic collision will be made a permanent part of this case file.

Detectives were briefed that Los Angeles Sheriff Deputy Mejia #[redacted] and Deputy McDonald #[redacted] assigned to Palmdale unit 266/PM shift, as well as California Highway Patrol Officer[redacted]#[redacted]were involved in the vehicle pursuit, along with numerous other units.

The vehicle pursuit terminated at the intersection of Palmdale Boulevard and 20th Street East, when the carjacking vehicle collided with another vehicle. Three armed suspects

ran from the vehicle, in a northeast direction, into the parking lot of the "99 Cent Store" at 36930 20th Street East, Palmdale.

The suspects were subsequently identified as follows. Suspect #1, Tony Lugo MH/04-19-94, was armed with a Glock .45 caliber pistol, Suspect #2, Anthony Cardozo MH/11-08-00, was armed with a 12 gauge shotgun and Suspect #3, and Ranfere Pina MH/08-09-81, was armed with a model 1911 .45 caliber pistol.

Deputy Mejia and Deputy McDonald chased the Suspects on foot in the parking lot of the location. Detectives were advised that shots were fired by at least one of the Suspects at Deputies Mejia and McDonald, and in the direction of Officer [redacted] who all returned fire.

Suspect Lugo was struck by gunfire. He was treated at the scene and subsequently transported to Antelope Valley Hospital. Suspects Cardozo and Pina were captured at the scene and transported to Palmdale Sheriff's Station. Each of the Suspects weapons were found in close proximity to where they were detained.

The crime scene was contained and Deputies Mejia and McDonald were transported to Palmdale Sheriff's Station. Deputy witnesses were also transported to Palmdale Sheriff Station. Officer [redacted] and Highway Patrol Officers witnesses were transported to the Lancaster Highway Patrol Office.

Detectives noted a grey 1911 model .45 caliber pistol (**Ev item 44**) lying in the parking lot of the location, which was the area where Suspect Pina was taken into custody. The pistol (**Ev item 44**) was later determined to be fully loaded

Approximately fifteen yards south of the 1911 pistol (**Ev item 44**), Detectives noted an area where there was a medical bag, medical debris and blood pooling. This location was determined to be the location where Suspect Lugo was shot and fell. Several .45 caliber fired cartridge cases were found in this immediate area. Detectives were advised that a .45 caliber Glock pistol (**Ev item 66**) belonging to Suspect Lugo was picked up by a Highway Patrol Officer and secured in a Highway Patrol vehicle which was parked adjacent to the medical debris. Detectives also noted a shotgun (**Ev item 2**) which was located in the parking lot, approximately sixty to seventy yards west of the above described location. This is the location where Suspect Cardozo was arrested. The shotgun was later determined to be loaded with live rounds.

Detectives Kirste and Miranda were assigned to document the crime scene, which will include details of the above listed items. Detectives Shepherd, Hardiman and Rincon were assigned to document witness statements.

DEPUTY INTERVIEWS

DEPUTY SHERIFF JOSHUA MEJIA

On June 13, 2020, at approximately 0258 hours, Detectives Lukehart and Recchia conducted an interview of **Deputy Joshua Mejia** at Palmdale Sheriff's Station. He was represented by his attorney, Steven Welsh from the Law Firm of Rains, Lucia, Stern, St. Phalle and Silver. The interview was audio recorded and a brief synopsis follows.

Deputy Mejia stated he was working unit 266/PM shift from [redacted] hours to [redacted] hours. He was wearing a Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Class "B" uniform which consists of a tan uniform shirt with Los Angeles Sheriff's Department shoulder patches a cloth Sheriff's star and name tape, and green uniform pants. He was equipped with a department issued Smith & Wesson M&P 9mm handgun, taser, and OC pepper spray. His is a Field Training Officer. He was working with his partner, [redacted] Deputy Christopher McDonald. They were working routine patrol, in a black and white marked Sheriff's sedan with overhead lights and a siren.

Deputy Mejia stated he was the passenger officer and Deputy McDonald was the driver. They were coming from a call for service near 30 Street West and Rancho Vista Boulevard. He heard information, via Sheriff's Radio, that the California Highway Patrol was requesting assistance regarding following a vehicle taken in an armed carjacking. The broadcast further stated that a rifle was used in the crime. The description of the vehicle, including make, model and license plate was provided. A Sheriff's Aero unit broadcasted the location and direction of travel of the Suspect vehicle.

Deputy Mejia and McDonald were driving southbound on the 14 Freeway approaching Pearblossom Highway when the Sheriff's Aero unit advised that the Highway Patrol was now in pursuit of the Suspect vehicle. Based on the radio updates, they drove northbound on Soledad Canyon Road in an effort to provide assistance.

Deputy Mejia saw the Suspect vehicle being followed by Highway Patrol vehicles driving southbound. The Suspect vehicle made several u-turns in the area, while continuing to be followed by the Sheriff's Aero unit.

Deputy Mejia and McDonald were able to acquire the suspect vehicle and followed it southbound on Sierra Highway, to Crown Valley Road. The suspect vehicle turned south and then back onto the 14 Freeway, northbound. At that time, they were the lead unit behind the Suspect vehicle. As the Suspect vehicle drove northbound, Highway Patrol units passed them with lights and sirens activated and pursued the suspect vehicle. Deputies Mejia and McDonald followed the pursuit and engaged their lights and siren as the suspect vehicle passed Pearblossom Highway.

The suspect vehicle continued to drive northbound on the 14 Freeway, failing to yield to the pursuing units. The suspect vehicle exited the freeway at Palmdale Boulevard and went eastbound. At this time, Deputy Mejia and Deputy McDonald were the third unit in pursuit, behind two Highway Patrol vehicles.

Deputy Mejia stated the Suspect vehicle drove eastbound on Palmdale Boulevard and failed to yield to a red light at Division Street, while driving at a high rate of speed. He stated the suspect vehicle failed to yield to red lights at 3rd Street East and 6th Street East.

Deputy Mejia stated the suspect vehicle collided into the rear of another vehicle at the intersection of Palmdale Boulevard and 20th Street East. The lead Highway Patrol vehicles "boxed in" the suspect vehicle. At that time, he saw the doors of the suspect vehicle open and two Suspects run eastbound from the vehicle, across the intersection. Deputy Mejia had obtained his issued AR15 patrol rifle from the rack and chambered a round. He did so because of the earlier radio broadcast, which indicated the suspects in the carjacking were armed with a rifle.

Deputy McDonald drove past the stopped suspect vehicle and crossed the intersection in pursuit of the suspects who were on foot. At that time, Deputy Mejia feared that the Suspects would attempt to carjack another vehicle to escape.

Deputy McDonald stopped the patrol vehicle at the south curb of Palmdale Boulevard, just east of the intersection of 20th Street East. Both Deputies exited their patrol vehicle and ran after the two suspects. Deputy Mejia was armed with his patrol rifle and running slightly in front of Deputy McDonald.

Deputy Mejia described the first suspect as a Male Hispanic approximately five foot seven, one hundred and fifty pounds with a bald tattooed head, wearing a grey sweatshirt and dark jeans (later determined to be Suspect Pina). He described the second suspect as Male Hispanic with a shaved head, wearing a white shirt, black shorts and high white socks (later determined to be Suspect Tony Lugo). The two suspects were initially running close together, but began to spread apart as they ran eastbound through the parking lot. Suspect Pina was to the left (north) and Suspect Lugo was to the right(south).

Deputy Mejia saw Suspect Pina initially running with both hands tucked in toward his waistband area. He yelled to his partner that Suspect Pina was going for his waistband. He noted that Deputy McDonald had also noted this, because he was also yelling that the Suspect Pina was going for his waistband. Deputy Mejia then saw Suspect Pina running with both arms pumping in a natural fashion. At this time, he saw that Suspect

Pina was holding a grey metallic handgun in his right hand. Upon seeing the handgun, Deputy Mejia's focus became entirely concentrated on Suspect Pina and he no longer was able to see Suspect Lugo. He yelled at Suspect Pina several times to stop.

Deputy Mejia stated he saw Suspect Pina, while continuing to run eastbound, turn his upper body and his head to his left, counterclockwise, back toward Deputy Mejia. Suspect Pina was looking directly at him while aiming his handgun back over his left shoulder at Deputy Mejia. Suspect Pina fired between three to five rounds at Deputy Mejia. He saw muzzle flashes and heard the gunshots. Deputy Mejia fired approximately five to ten rounds from his patrol rifle at Suspect Pina in response. He saw Suspect Pina fall to the ground.

Deputy Mejia stated at that time, Deputy McDonald was to his right side. He saw, in his peripheral vision, that Deputy McDonald had also fired rounds toward Suspect Pina. Deputy Mejia's attention was further drawn toward his right side after Suspect Pina fell, because of continuing gunfire. He then saw that Suspect Lugo was facing back toward him, sideways, with his right arm straight out, firing a handgun at him.

Deputy Mejia heard the whistle of the rounds passing his head. He then engaged Suspect Lugo by firing approximately five to six rounds from his patrol rifle back at him. He noted that Deputy McDonald also began firing at Suspect Lugo.

Deputy Mejia stated Suspect Lugo fell to one knee, but was leaning forward and still shooting at him. He fired an additional round at Suspect Lugo. Suspect Lugo fell to the ground. Deputy McDonald ran toward Suspect Lugo and pushed Suspect Lugo's handgun away from him. He then detained Suspect Lugo. He saw a Highway Patrol Officer pick up Suspect Lugo's gun and secure it.

At this time, Deputy Mejia ran toward Suspect Pina and detained him. He checked Suspect Pina for gunshot wounds, but did not find any. He noted that Highway Patrol Officers were rendering medical aid to Suspect Lugo at the scene.

Deputy Mejia stated he was in fear for his life and fired his patrol rifle at both Suspects because he feared that both of them were attempting to kill him by shooting at him.

Deputy Mejia stated that he later learned that an additional Suspect, who was in possession of shotgun, was arrested at the scene. However, he had not seen that Suspect during the incident.

Deputy Christopher McDonald

On June 13, 2020, at approximately 0346 hours, Homicide Detectives Domenick

Recchia and Gordon Lukehart interviewed **Deputy Christopher McDonald** [redacted] in a conference room at Palmdale Sheriff's Station. Attorney Steven Welch of Rains, Lucia, Stern, St Phalle & Silver was also present during this interview. The following is a summary of this interview, which was audio recorded.

Deputy McDonald is a Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff currently assigned to the Palmdale Sheriff Station. During the time of the incident, he was working Palmdale unit 266 with his partner Deputy Joshua Mejia [redacted] Deputy McDonald was the driver of their fully marked patrol vehicle and Deputy Mejia was the front passenger (bookman). Deputy McDonald was wearing a full Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Class "B" uniform. Their scheduled shift was [redacted] hours to [redacted] hours.

Deputy McDonald stated while he was on routine patrol, he heard a broadcast over the Sheriff's radio frequency stating that "Air29" (Sheriff's helicopter) was following a carjacking vehicle in the area. The broadcast further stated the Suspects were armed with a rifle and a handgun and were driving a blue Dodge Charger.

Deputy McDonald then drove onto the 14 freeway (south) and responded toward the Acton area. As he exited the freeway at Escondido Canyon Road, he observed the Suspect vehicle drive in front of him and he saw two California Highway Patrol motorcycle units and California Highway Patrol vehicle in pursuit of the suspect vehicle. Deputy McDonald followed the California Highway Patrol units to provide assistance. The Suspect vehicle traversed through several streets in the area and ultimately returned to the 14 freeway, northbound. Deputy McDonald then joined the pursuit to assist the California Highway Patrol. The Suspect vehicle continued north on the 14 freeway and exited Palmdale Boulevard, eastbound.

Deputy McDonald and Officers from the California Highway Patrol continued to pursue the Suspect vehicle. As the Suspect vehicle approached the intersection of 20th Street East and Palmdale Boulevard, the vehicle veered to the right and collided into a civilian vehicle and came to a complete stop.

Deputy McDonald stated he observed two California Highway Patrol units position their vehicles on the right side (passenger side) of the Suspect vehicle and he veered his vehicle toward the driver's side. Deputy McDonald stated he saw a Suspect wearing a grey sweatshirt (Later identified as Suspect Ranfere Pina) running northeast across the intersection. Deputy McDonald drove toward Suspect Pina, which caused the Suspect to change his direction and run in a southeast direction toward a parking lot. Deputy McDonald stated he could see Suspect Pina holding his waistband with one hand as he was running, which lead him to believe that Suspect Pina was holding a weapon.

Suspect Pina continues to run in a southeast direction and ran toward an embankment

covered with bushes which border the parking lot. Deputy McDonald further stated at this time he also saw an additional Suspect (Later Identified as Suspect Tony Rocha Lugo) running toward the parking lot. Deputy McDonald stated his primary focus was directed toward Suspect Pina. At this time both Suspects ran over the embankment and into the parking lot.

Deputy McDonald and Deputy Mejia exited their patrol vehicle and pursued the Suspects on foot into the parking lot. Deputy McDonald stated he was running behind Deputy Mejia during this foot pursuit. As Deputy McDonald enters the parking lot he observes Suspect Pina running eastbound. Deputy McDonald stated he could see Suspect Pina holding an object with both hands close to his chest area. Suspect Pina then bladed his shoulder to the left and looked back toward him and Deputy Mejia. Deputy McDonald stated it appeared to him as if Suspect Mejia was attempting to rack or manipulate a firearm. Deputy McDonald explained to Detectives that at this time he could not see a firearm in Suspect Pina's hands, however, based on his movements he believed Suspect Pina was armed with a firearm.

Suspect Pina continued to run and look back toward them, as Deputy Mejia shouted verbal commands toward Suspect Pina to "stop" and "show his hands."
Deputy McDonald then saw Suspect Pina reach out and fire a handgun toward Deputy Mejia. Deputy McDonald stated he could see a "flash" and heard the sound of gunfire.

Deputy McDonald stated he believed Suspect Pina fired approximately three times toward Deputy Mejia. Deputy Mejia then fired back toward Suspect Pina with his AR-15 rifle. At this time he could see that Suspect Pina still running, however, now Suspect Pina is running backward and was facing them and he could see a firearm in the Suspect's right hand which was pointed toward Deputy Mejia.

Deputy McDonald stated he believed Suspect Pina was shooting at Deputy Mejia and believed that his partner was shot at this time.

Deputy McDonald stated he then fired his duty weapon (Smith and Wesson, M&P 9mm), stating he believes he fired one or two rounds toward the direction of Suspect Pina. Suspect Pina then fell to the ground and Deputy McDonald believed Suspect Pina was struck by gunfire.

At this time Deputy McDonald heard a gunshot coming from his right side and observed the second Suspect (Suspect Lugo) with his right arm extended out, holding a firearm and shooting toward Deputy Mejia.

Deputy McDonald then fired his duty weapon toward Suspect Lugo and observed Suspect Lugo fall to the ground. As Suspect Lugo was on the ground, Deputy

McDonald saw Suspect Lugo "punch" his arm out toward them as if he was trying to shoot at them in the prone position. Deputy McDonald stated he believes he fired a total of 7-8 rounds toward Suspect Lugo.

Deputy McDonald stated Deputy Mejia also fired his weapon toward Suspect Lugo.

Suspect Lugo stopped moving and Deputy McDonald conducted a tactical reload (removing his magazine from his firearm and reloading with a fully loaded magazine). Deputy McDonald then started shouting verbal commands toward Suspect Lugo, "Let me see your hands" repeatedly.

Deputy McDonald saw that Suspect Lugo had stopped moving and could see that he had been struck by gunfire and was bleeding. Deputy McDonald then approached Suspect Lugo.

As Deputy McDonald approached Suspect Lugo he saw the suspect's firearm **(Ev Item #66)** lying east the ground east of his body. Deputy McDonald then picked up the firearm and threw it away from the reach of Suspect Lugo.

Deputy McDonald grabbed Suspect Lugo's arms, handcuffed him and checked him for additional weapons. Deputy McDonald attempted to assess Suspect Lugo's injuries to conduct medical aid by checking his body for gunshot wounds. Deputy McDonald stated Suspect Lugo was unresponsive at this time.

Officers from the California Highway Patrol approached him and he believed that one of these officers secured Suspect Lugo's firearm **(Ev Item #66)**. Another California Highway Patrol Officer approached Suspect Lugo with a medical bag and several Officers rendered aid to Suspect Lugo.

Deputy McDonald stated he never saw the third Suspect (Suspect Anthony Cardozo). Deputy McDonald stated he learn about the third Suspect after the shooting occurred. Deputy McDonald additionally stated he was unaware of any other Deputy Sheriff's (besides himself and Deputy Mejia) firing their weapons or any Officers from the California Highway Patrol firing their weapons during the incident.

Prior to this interview Detectives recovered Deputy McDonald's duty weapon, Smith & Wesson, M&P, 9 mm, serial [redacted] **(Ev Item #73)**. The firearm was loaded with 16 live rounds in the magazine and one round in the chamber (Full capacity). Forensic Identification Specialist Marmolejo obtained possession of this firearm and booked it into evidence.

OFFICER [redacted]

California Highway Patrol Officer [redacted] was contacted. He advised Sergeant Shepherd that he would be available to be interviewed regarding the shooting at a later date

SUSPECT INTERVIEWS

Suspect Anthony Cardozo

On June 14, 2020, at approximately 1519 hours, Detectives Recchia and Lukehart interviewed Suspect **Anthony Cardozo** MH/ 11-08-2000 in an office at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Inmate Reception Center. This interview was audio recorded. Detective Lukehart advised Suspect Cardozo of his Miranda rights, which he stated he understood.

Suspect Cardozo requested an attorney and this interview was terminated. Detective Lukehart obtained a DNA buccal swab (**EV Item #LR1**) from Suspect Cardozo.

Suspect Ranfere Pina

On June 14, 2020, at approximately 1638 hours, Detectives Recchia and Lukehart interviewed Suspect **Ranfere Pina** MH/ 08-09-1981 in an office at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Inmate Reception Center. This interview was audio recorded. Detective Recchia advised Suspect Pina of his Miranda rights, which he stated he understood.

Suspect Pina requested an attorney and this interview was terminated. Detective Lukehart obtained a DNA buccal swab (**EV Item #LR2**) from Suspect Pina.

A Perkins Operation was conducted on both Suspect Pina and Cardoza at this time.

CARJACKING VIDEO:

Detectives Lukehart and Recchia obtained video footage of the carjacking from South Gate Police Officer [redacted] who is the investigating officer on that case. Detectives noted that the video depicts two suspects emerge from a silver four door sedan (chase vehicle) which pulls up behind the Victim's vehicle. One suspect is armed with a black shotgun and one suspect appears to be brandishing a handgun in his right hand. Both suspects are masked. The third Suspect is the driver of the chase vehicle and is not visible in the video.

The Suspect holding the shotgun appears to match, in height and weight, Suspect Cardozo, who was found in possession of the shotgun (**Ev item 2**). The shotgun in the

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video also matches the appearance and configuration of the shotgun **(Ev item 2)** found at the scene.

The Suspect who appears to be brandishing a handgun in the video appears to match, in height and weight, Suspect Lugo, who fired at the Deputies with the Glock handgun.

Detectives believe that the Suspects involved in this investigation are the same Suspects who committed the carjacking, based on the proximity in time, the fact that the Suspects fled from the stolen vehicle and engaged in a shooting, the number of Suspects, the similarity of weapons used and the similarity in physical descriptions.

This supplemental report also serves to change the statistical code for this case from 055 to 013.

BY: DETECTIVE GORDON LUKEHART #[redacted]
SERGEANT DOMENICK RECCHIA #[redacted]

APPROVED BY: SERGEANT JOHN O'BRIEN #[redacted]
HOMICIDE BUREAU - DETECTIVE DIVISION



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
BUREAU OF PROSECUTION SUPPORT OPERATIONS
JUSTICE SYSTEM INTEGRITY DIVISION

GEORGE GASCÓN • District Attorney
JOSEPH F. INIGUEZ • Chief of Staff

DIANA M. TERAN • Director

July 26, 2022

Chief Mark Garrett
California Highway Patrol – Southern Division
411 North Central Avenue, Suite 410
Glendale, California 91203

Captain [redacted]
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
[redacted]
1 Cupania Circle
Monterey Park, California 91755

Re: Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Tony Lugo and Non-Fatal Shooting at Ranfere Pina
J.S.I.D. File #20-0220
C.H.P. File #F202000717
L.A.S.D. File #020-07976-2608-013

Dear Chief Garrett and Captain [redacted]

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the June 12, 2020, fatal shooting of Tony Lugo by California Highway Patrol Officer [redacted] and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputies Joshua Mejia and Christopher McDonald, and the non-fatal shooting at Ranfere Pina by Deputies Mejia and McDonald. Our detailed analysis of this incident is contained in the attached memorandum.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney

By [signature]

ALAN YOCHELSON
Head Deputy District Attorney
Justice System Integrity Division

c: Officer [redacted]
Deputy Joshua Mejia, #[redacted]
Deputy Christopher McDonald, #[redacted]

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MEMORANDUM

TO: CHIEF MARK GARRETT
California Highway Patrol – Southern Division
411 North Central Avenue, Suite 410
Glendale, California 91203

TO: CAPTAIN [redacted]
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
[redacted]
1 Cupania Circle
Monterey Park, California 91755

FROM: JUSTICE SYSTEM INTEGRITY DIVISION
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

SUBJECT: Fatal Officer Involved Shooting of Tony Lugo and Non-Fatal Shooting at Ranfere Pina
J.S.I.D. File #20-0220
C.H.P. File #F202000717
L.A.S.D. File #020-07976-2608-013

DATE: July 26, 2022

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the June 12, 2020, fatal shooting of Tony Lugo by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Deputies Joshua Mejia and Christopher McDonald and California Highway Patrol (CHP) Officer [redacted] and the non-fatal shooting at Ranfere Pina by Deputies Mejia and McDonald. We have concluded that Deputies Mejia and McDonald and Officer [redacted] acted lawfully in self-defense and in defense of others.

The District Attorney's Command Center was notified of the shooting on June 12, 2020, at 10:45 p.m. The District Attorney Response Team responded to the location and was given a briefing and walk-through of the scene.

The following analysis is based on investigative reports, audio recordings of interviews, ballistics reports, DNA analysis reports, the autopsy report, crime scene diagrams, photographic evidence, and witness statements submitted to this office by LASD Detective Gordon Lukehart and Sergeant Domenick Recchia. The preliminary hearing transcripts in case MA079144 were reviewed. The voluntary statements of the officers were considered in this analysis.

FACTUAL ANALYSIS

On June 12, 2020, at approximately 4:14 p.m., three men, one of them armed with a rifle or shotgun, carjacked a blue Dodge Charger in the City of South Gate. The stolen Charger was equipped with XM Satellite Radio (XM). At approximately 8:35 p.m., an XM representative

informed the South Gate Police Department that the Charger was traveling northbound on the Antelope Valley Freeway (14 Freeway) at approximately 100 m.p.h. CHP was notified, and a vehicle pursuit ensued.

As the Charger traveled north toward the City of Palmdale, CHP requested LASD Palmdale Station deputies assist in the pursuit. Dispatch advised deputies that the car was taken during an armed carjacking and that the driver may be armed with a handgun and the passenger with a rifle. The Charger exited the 14 Freeway at Palmdale Boulevard and traveled east, exceeding the speed limit and committing traffic violations.

Multiple CHP and LASD units were involved in the pursuit, including Mejia and McDonald. Mejia and McDonald were dressed in distinctive LASD uniforms and traveled together in a marked black and white patrol vehicle. [redacted] was also engaged in the pursuit. He wore a distinctive CHP uniform and traveled alone in a marked black and white patrol vehicle. Neither LASD nor CHP provided their personnel with body worn video (BWV) at the time of this incident. Mejia was wearing a personal BWV during the shooting but told investigators it was not activated at the time.[1]

The Charger collided with another vehicle at the intersection of Palmdale Boulevard and 20th Street East, and the pursuit ended. Three men exited the Charger, later identified as Ranfere Pina, Tony Lugo, and Anthony Cardozo. Cardozo exited the vehicle with a shotgun in his hands.[2] The men ran southeast, through the intersection, down an embankment, and into a 99 Cents Only store parking lot.

[redacted] parked his patrol vehicle near the east curb of 20th Street East, drew his duty weapon, and began chasing Cardozo. As Cardozo ran down the embankment and entered the parking lot, he tripped and fell, dropping the shotgun he was carrying. Cardozo got back on his feet and continued to run east, leaving the shotgun on the ground. [redacted] continued chasing Cardozo.

Simultaneously, McDonald parked his vehicle on the south curb of Palmdale Boulevard, just east of the intersection of 20th Street East. Mejia exited the patrol vehicle carrying an LASD issued rifle, and McDonald exited and drew his duty weapon. Mejia ran slightly in front of McDonald as both deputies ran south toward the parking lot. As they ran toward Pina, both deputies noticed he kept both hands in his waistband. According to Mejia, he yelled that Pina was "going for his waistband!" Mejia also yelled, "Stop!" and "Let me see your hands!"

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[1] The officer-involved shooting was not captured on video.

[2] Officer, deputy, and witness accounts vary as to whether Pina and Lugo were holding handguns at this time.

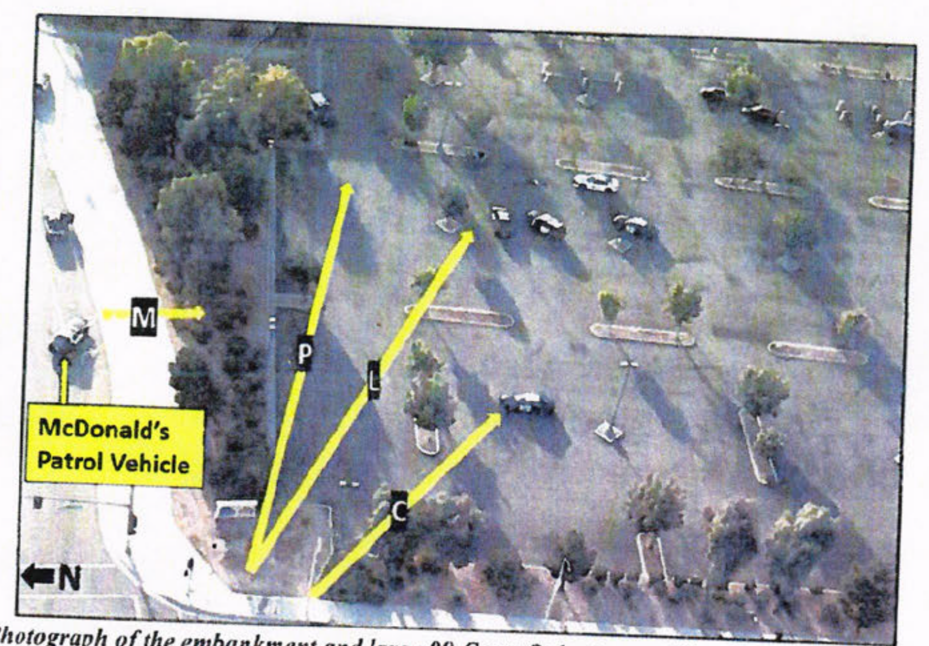


Figure 1 – Photograph of the embankment and large 99 Cents Only store parking lot. The approximate paths of Pina (P), Lugo (L), Cardozo (C), and Mejia and McDonald (M) are labeled.[3]

As Mejia and McDonald reached the parking lot, they noticed Pina had a firearm in his right hand. Pina continued running east slightly ahead of the deputies as he turned his upper body and head to his left, back at Mejia. According to the deputies, Pina aimed his handgun over his left shoulder and at Mejia.[4] At that time, Mejia and McDonald fired multiple rounds from their weapons at Pina. Pina was not struck by any of the shots fired, but immediately dropped his firearm and fell to the ground. Simultaneous to the shots fired, Cardozo also got on the ground and surrendered.

Lugo, who was slightly south of Pina, stopped running, turned, and took a sideways firing stance as he fired multiple rounds from a handgun toward Mejia.[5] Mejia, McDonald, and [redacted] responded by firing multiple rounds from their weapons at Lugo, striking him numerous times. According to Mejia and McDonald, Lugo continued pointing his firearm at Mejia as he fell to the ground. Mejia and McDonald stated they believed Lugo was still firing or attempting to fire at Mejia at that time, so they both continued to discharge their weapons at Lugo. Lugo stopped moving, and McDonald repeatedly yelled, "Let me see your hands!" Lugo did not respond, and McDonald approached him, picked up the handgun, and threw it out of reach.[6] McDonald handcuffed Lugo, and a CHP officer began rendering medical aid. Simultaneously, Mejia arrested Pina, and [redacted] arrested Cardozo.

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[3] The estimated entry points and paths of the involved parties are based on Mejia, McDonald, and [redacted] statements and the physical evidence. The precise entry points and routes are unknown.
[4] Both Mejia and McDonald stated that Pina fired multiple shots toward Mejia at this time. However, no discharged cartridge casings were located. At the preliminary hearing, Mejia stated he continues to believe Pina shot at him despite the lack of cartridge casings at the scene. McDonald did not testify at the preliminary hearing.
[5] Mejia and McDonald did not see Lugo draw the firearm.
[6] A CHP officer recovered Lugo's firearm and secured it in a patrol vehicle.

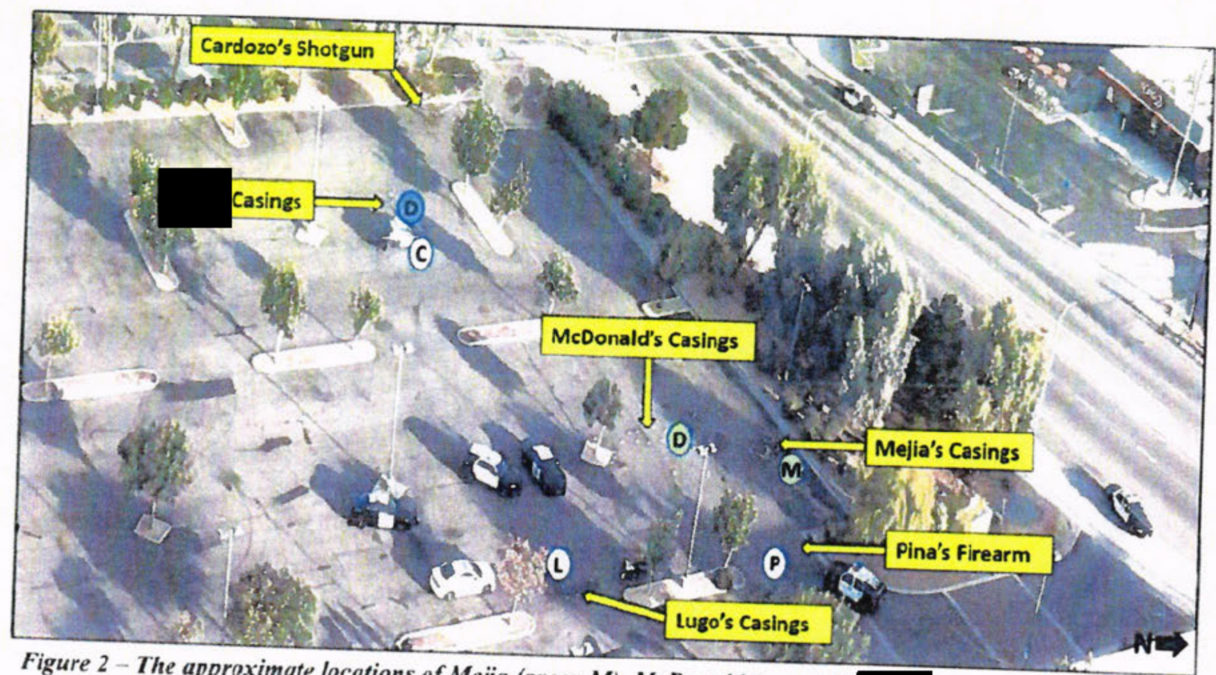


Figure 2 – The approximate locations of Mejia (green M), McDonald (green D), [redacted] (blue D), Cardozo (white C), Pina (white P), and Lugo (white L) when shots were fired.[7] The location of physical evidence is also labeled.

Lugo was transported to the Antelope Valley Hospital and was pronounced dead by Dr. Chris Samuel on June 13, 2020, at 8:22 a.m.

Pina and Cardozo invoked their right to remain silent and were not interviewed. On June 16, 2020, Pina and Cardoza were charged in case MA079144 with multiple felony counts, including assault on a peace officer with a semiautomatic firearm in violation of Penal Code section 245(d)(2) and carjacking in violation of Penal Code section 215(a). This matter is currently pending trial.

Autopsy

An autopsy was performed on June 17, 2020, by Deputy Medical Examiner Zuhha Ashraf. The cause of death was determined to be multiple gunshot wounds. Lugo sustained ten entrance gunshot wounds to the head, left mid back, right lower back, right posterior shoulder, right upper arm, left forearm, and left thigh. He also sustained a graze wound to his right hand. Five bullets, four jacket fragments, and one lead fragment were recovered from Lugo's body during the autopsy and preserved for ballistics testing. Toxicology results indicated the presence of amphetamine and methamphetamine in Lugo's blood at the time of the incident.

Ballistics Evidence

From the front seat of a CHP vehicle, LASD investigators recovered the firearm used by Lugo, a Glock, model 21, .45 caliber semiautomatic handgun. The firearm had no bullets in the

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[7] The location of the people involved is an approximation based on Mejia, McDonald, and [redacted] statements and the physical evidence. The police vehicles seen in the photograph were not present during the incident.

magazine or chamber. Seven cartridge casings headstamped "TULAMMO 45 AUTO" were recovered from the 99 Cents Only store parking lot near where Lugo was shot and arrested. Subsequent ballistics testing confirmed that these casings were discharged from Lugo's firearm.



Figure 3 – Photograph depicting handgun fired by Lugo.

A Norinco, model 1911A1, .45 caliber semiautomatic handgun was recovered in the 99 Cents Only store parking lot, in the area where Pina was arrested. The firearm was loaded with one round in the chamber and five rounds in the magazine. No cartridge casings expended from this firearm were found at the scene. A loaded Benelli, M1 Super 90, semiautomatic shotgun was recovered from the northwest corner of the parking lot, in the area where Cardozo fell to the ground.



Figures 4 & 5 – Photographs depicting the handgun and shotgun possessed by Pina (Figure 4) and Cardozo (Figure 5).

Eighteen cartridge casings headstamped "SPEER 11 223 REM" that were discharged from Mejia's Colt M4 Carbine, 5.56x45mm caliber semiautomatic rifle were recovered from the 99 Cents Only store parking lot.[8] Eighteen cartridge casings headstamped "FC 9mm Luger" that were discharged from McDonald's Smith and Wesson, model M&P9, 9mm Luger caliber semiautomatic service weapon were also recovered from the parking lot.[9] One cartridge casing

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[8] Mejia's rifle was left at the scene and a round count with Mejia present was not conducted. The rifle was recovered with 10 rounds remaining in the magazine. According to Mejia, he did not count the number of rounds in the rifle's magazine that day but typically loads his rifle magazines with 28 rounds, which would be consistent with the number of casings recovered at the scene and the number of cartridges that remained in the rifle.

[9] This is consistent with the round count conducted of McDonald's magazine following the incident.

headstamped "Federal 40 S & W" and one headstamped "F C 18 40 S & W," both of which were discharged from [redacted] Smith and Wesson, model M&P40, .40 caliber semiautomatic service weapon, were recovered from the northwest portion of the parking lot.

Ballistics testing determined that the five bullets recovered from Lugo's body during the autopsy were fired from McDonald's duty weapon. Two recovered fragments had characteristics suggesting they may have been fired from Mejia's rifle but lacked sufficient individual characteristics for an identification. The final two jacket fragments and single lead fragment were unsuitable for comparison.

Investigators observed multiple bullet holes and strike marks on various walls, windows, trees, and vehicles within the shopping center parking lot. Four bullets were recovered. Two of the bullets were recovered near the front of the 99 Cents Only store, one in the west facing front wall and the other from the back of a soda cooler located inside the store. Ballistics testing determined that both bullets were fired from [redacted] duty weapon.

DNA Evidence

DNA samples taken from Pina, Lugo, and Cardozo were compared to those found on the firearms recovered from the 99 Cents Only store parking lot. Lugo and Pina's DNA were located on the Norinco handgun recovered near where Pina was arrested. Lugo's DNA was located on the Glock handgun recovered near where Lugo was shot and arrested. The DNA sample obtained from the Bellini shotgun had at least five contributors and was unsuitable for interpretation.

Law Enforcement Statements[10]

Deputy Mejia

Mejia was McDonald's [redacted] at the time of the incident. Mejia stated that they were informed via police radio that the suspects were armed and wanted in connection with a carjacking. Following the traffic collision, Mejia pursued Pina and Lugo on foot into the shopping center parking lot. He did not see Cardozo until after the shooting occurred. Mejia noticed Pina kept his hands near his waistband as he ran. Mejia and McDonald both yelled, "He's going for his waistband!" several times. When Pina moved his hands out of his waistband, Mejia saw that Pina was holding a grey metallic handgun in his right hand. Mejia yelled, "Stop! Stop! Stop!" According to Mejia, Pina then "turns and looks at me, puts the gun over his shoulder, [and] shoots at me. That's when I returned fire." Mejia heard three to five shots and saw muzzle flash coming from Pina's firearm. Mejia estimated he discharged approximately five to ten rounds at Pina. In his peripheral vision, Mejia could see McDonald standing to his right firing at Pina.

When Pina fell to the ground, Mejia heard additional gunfire coming from his right. He then saw Lugo facing him, standing sideways, and firing a handgun at him. Mejia heard the "whistles of the bullets going by [his] head." Mejia responded by firing approximately five to six rounds

[10] LASD investigators recorded statements given during interviews. Preliminary hearing testimony was transcribed.

from his rifle at Lugo and noticed that McDonald was also firing at Lugo. Lugo fell to one knee and was "slumped over" while continuing to fire at Mejia. Mejia discharged a final round at Lugo that appeared to strike him in the head. Mejia stated he feared for his life during the incident and believed both suspects were attempting to kill him when they fired their weapons at him.

Deputy McDonald

Following the traffic collision, McDonald saw Pina run through the intersection "holding his waistband" with both hands and believed he was armed. McDonald and Mejia exited their patrol vehicle and pursued Pina and Lugo into a parking lot. Mejia yelled, "Stop!" and "Let me see your hands." McDonald could see Pina holding an "object" with both hands close to his chest. It appeared to McDonald that Pina may have been "racking" a firearm.[11] Pina then turned his shoulder to the left and looked back toward him and Mejia. Pina "reach[ed] out" and fired approximately three rounds at Mejia. McDonald heard shots and saw muzzle flash coming from Pina's handgun.

Mejia began discharging his rifle toward Pina. Pina faced Mejia and was "backpedaling" as he continued shooting toward Mejia. McDonald estimated that Pina and Mejia were approximately ten feet from one another at this point, and because of that, McDonald believed Mejia had been struck by Pina's rounds. McDonald stated he was not sure, but thought he fired one to two rounds at Pina in response. Pina fell to the ground, and McDonald thought he had been hit by gunfire.

After Pina fell to the ground, McDonald heard a gunshot coming from his right and saw Lugo firing a handgun at Mejia. Mejia returned fire, and McDonald also discharged his duty weapon at Lugo. McDonald estimated he fired approximately seven to eight rounds. Lugo appeared to have been struck by gunfire. As Lugo fell to the ground, he "punch[ed] his arms out" in McDonald and Mejia's direction as if he was attempting to shoot them from a prone position. McDonald felt threatened and continued discharging his duty weapon until the magazine was empty. McDonald reloaded but did not fire again because Lugo stopped moving. McDonald approached Lugo and tossed the handgun he had been firing out of his reach. McDonald handcuffed Lugo and patted him down for additional weapons. CHP officers secured Lugo's firearm and began life-saving measures. McDonald was unaware of Cardozo until after the incident.

Officer [redacted]

After the traffic collision, [redacted] saw three men exit the Charger. Pina and Lugo exited the front passenger door holding handguns. Cardozo left the rear of the vehicle and carried a shotgun over his right shoulder. [redacted] stopped and exited his patrol vehicle at the curb of 20th Street East, south of Palmdale Boulevard. [redacted] began chasing Cardozo, who was approximately eight feet in front of him. As Cardozo ran down an embankment into the shopping center parking lot, [redacted] briefly lost sight of him and [redacted] heard what he believed to be a shotgun hitting the

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[11] Racking a gun consists of gripping the slide, pulling it back, and releasing it. Racking causes a round to go from the magazine into the barrel of the firearm.

ground. When [redacted] regained sight of Cardozo, he saw a shotgun lying on the pavement and Cardozo getting to his feet.

Cardozo left the shotgun on the ground and continued running east. [redacted] then heard gunfire and saw Lugo firing a handgun toward Mejia and McDonald. [redacted] saw Lugo fire at the deputies at least two times. Fearing for the deputies' lives and his own, [redacted] discharged two rounds from his duty weapon at Lugo. [redacted] estimated he was approximately 100 feet away from Lugo when he shot at him. After discharging his service weapon, [redacted] saw Lugo fall to the ground. [redacted] then refocused his attention to Cardozo, who was lying directly in front of him in the prone position.

Deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer

Following the collision involving the Charger, Clinkunbroomer drove his patrol vehicle across 20th Street East and into the furthest south entrance of the 99 Cents Only shopping center parking lot. As he entered the driveway, Clinkunbroomer heard several gunshots. He stopped his vehicle in the southwest portion of the parking lot facing north. Clinkunbroomer saw Lugo facing northwest in an "aggressive" posture with one of his arms extended outward toward McDonald. He could see McDonald standing approximately ten to 20 feet north of Lugo with his arms extended outward and a firearm in his hand. Clinkunbroomer then heard several more gunshots and saw Lugo fall to the ground.

Witness Statements[12]

[redacted]

[redacted] was stopped at a red light at 20th Street East when the Charger crashed into the vehicle to her left. She saw three men exit the car; one carried a shotgun while another had a black handgun. [redacted] saw at least two of the men run east through the 99 Cents Only store parking lot. Both men turned around and pointed their guns west. She immediately ducked down in her vehicle and took cover. She then heard more than ten gunshots. When she looked up, she saw a man with a gray shirt lying on the ground of the shopping center parking lot.

[redacted]

[redacted] was stopped at a red light at 20th Street East when the Charger rear-ended him. When he looked back at the vehicle, it was empty. He then saw a man run east past the passenger side of his car. Approximately 20 to 30 seconds after exiting his vehicle to assess the damage, he heard ten to 11 gunshots coming from the east. The gunfire lasted ten seconds or less.

LEGAL ANALYSIS

California law permits the use of deadly force in self-defense or in the defense of others if the person claiming the right of self-defense or the defense of others actually and reasonably believed

[12] All interviews were recorded.

that he or others were in imminent danger of great bodily injury or death. Penal Code section 197; *People v. Randle* (2005) 35 Cal.4th 987, 994 (overruled on another ground in *People v. Chun* (2009) 45 Cal.4th 1172, 1201); *People v. Humphrey* (1996) 13 Cal.4th 1073, 1082; *see also,* CALCRIM No. 505.

A peace officer is justified in using deadly force upon another person when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, that such force is necessary for either of the following reasons: (1) to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person; or (2) to apprehend a fleeing person for any felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless immediately apprehended. Penal Code section 835a(c)(1)(A) & (B).

A threat of death or serious bodily injury is imminent when, based on the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable officer in the same situation would believe that a person has the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or another person. An imminent harm is not merely a fear of future harm, no matter how great the fear and no matter how great the likelihood of the harm, but is one that, from appearances, must be instantly confronted and addressed. Penal Code section 835a(e)(2).

When considering the totality of the circumstances, all facts known to or perceived by the peace officer at the time, including the conduct of the officer and the subject leading up to the use of deadly force, are taken into consideration. Penal Code section 835a(a)(4) & (e)(3). The peace officer's decision to use force is not evaluated with the benefit of hindsight and shall account for occasions when officers may be forced to make quick judgments about using force. Penal Code section 835a(a)(4).

Under the current use of force law, the reasonableness of an officer's use of deadly force is analyzed using a reasonable officer standard, not the reasonable person standard that was previously applied and articulated in *People v. Mehserle* (2012) 206 Cal.App.4th 1125, 1147. In evaluating whether a police officer's use of deadly force was reasonable in a specific situation, it is helpful to draw guidance from the objective standard of reasonableness adopted in civil actions alleging Fourth Amendment violations. "The 'reasonableness' of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight… The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments—in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving—about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation." *Graham v. Connor* (1989) 490 U.S. 386, 396-397.

In this case, Mejia, McDonald, and [redacted] were informed that a Dodge Charger had been stolen in an armed carjacking and that the occupants of the vehicle may be armed. Following a lengthy vehicle pursuit that ended in a traffic collision, Pina, Lugo, and Cardozo exited the vehicle armed with firearms. When Mejia and McDonald chased Pina and Lugo, Pina turned toward them and pointed a handgun at Mejia. Both Mejia and McDonald stated they believed Pina was shooting at them. While ballistics evidence suggests Pina did not discharge his firearm, that fact alone

does not alter the reasonableness of their actions. Police officers need not wait for a person to actually discharge their firearm. "[A]n officer may reasonably use deadly force when he or she confronts an armed suspect in close proximity whose actions indicate an intent to attack. In these circumstances, the Courts cannot ask an officer to hold fire in order to ascertain whether the suspect will, in fact, injure or murder the officer." *Martinez v. County of Los Angeles* (1996) 47 Cal.App.4th 334, 345, quoting *Reynolds v. County of San Diego* (S.D. Cal. 1994) 858 F.Supp. 1064, 1072.

Pina was wanted for his participation in a violent crime. Pina's actions: drawing a handgun, turning his body, and pointing the handgun at a pursuing deputy, suggest an intent to engage. Given the totality of the circumstances, Mejia and McDonald's belief that Mejia's life was in danger was reasonable, and the discharge of their firearms at Pina was lawful.

Mejia, McDonald, and [redacted] then observed Lugo firing multiple rounds from a handgun at Mejia. At that time, Mejia's life was in imminent danger, and it was reasonable for him to discharge his rifle in self-defense. Likewise, it was reasonable for McDonald and [redacted] to discharge their duty weapons in self-defense and in defense of Mejia.

CONCLUSION

We find that Deputies Joshua Mejia and Christopher McDonald and Officer [redacted] acted lawfully in self-defense and the defense of others when they used deadly force against Tony Lugo and Ranfere Pina.